

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 AID-05 IO-11 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /086 W

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R 211056Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1392

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

4UQMNS/AMEMBASSY SANA 099

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T TUNIS 0383

KUWAIT PASS BAGHDAD

USCINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

3.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, LE

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SUBJECT: OTHER-ARAB INTERVENTION IN LEBANESE CRISIS

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FONMIN CHATTI JANUARY 20 LATTER CHARACTERIZED LEBANESE CRISIS, WITH RISK OF DRAWING IN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, AS GREAT DANGER TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER GOT HAD VIEWS RE POSSIBLE POSITIONING OF ARAB LEAGUE TROOPS IN LEBANON, CHATTI SAID GOT HAD CONSIDERED, AND THOUGHT OF PROPOSING TO ARAB LEAGUE, POSSIBILITY OF INTERPOSING OTHER-ARAB MILITARY FORCE BETWEEN PARTIES TO LEBANESE FIGHTING. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THE ESSENTIAL THING IS TO FIND A BASIS FOR AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES IN LEBANON. AFTER PROFOUND STUDY, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING TUNISIAN TROOPS (WHO, HE SAID, WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO LEBANESE CHRISTIANS, AS WELL AS TO MOSLEMS), GOT HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE IDEA BASICALLY WOULD NOT WORK. EXTREMISTS ON BOTH SIDES WHO DO NOT WANT PEACE WOULD ATTACK THE INTER-POSING FORCE FROM BOTH SIDES.

2. AMBASSADOR REMARKED THAT THE SITUATION SEEMED TO HAVE REACHED A POINT WHERE ONLY THE EXTREMISTS ARE IN PLAY. CHATTI COMMENTED THAT THE EXTREMISTS DRAW EVERYONE ELSE IN. THE URGENT NEED, HE SAID, IS TO FIND A PLATFORM WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER THE MAJORITY OF LEBANESE OF ALL SIDES. THAT IS WHY GOT IS TRYING TO GET COUNTRIES "NEIGHBORING" LEBANON TO START A DIALOGUE WITH LEBANESE PARTIES IN CONTEXT OF THE ARAB LEAGUE.
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